



SPECIAL BULLETIN



WMD THREATS: SAMPLE GUIDELINES REISSUE

Because of the recent series of anthrax hoaxes, the National Domestic Preparedness Office is reissuing the sample guidelines for responding to a WMD threat.

1. Anonymous caller indicating a WMD threat (including anthrax)

- Law enforcement response including local authorities and FBI agent
 - Fire department/HazMat response not recommended unless device or substance is found.
 - Routine law enforcement investigation.
 - Investigative actions during this response may include:
 - Information gathering at the scene.
 - Building evacuation/search following local protocol.
 - Taking control of the building ventilation system may be warranted based upon investigative findings.
 - Attention should be focused on appliances or devices foreign to the surroundings.
 - Included should be an assessment of the building ventilation system to rule out forced entry and tampering.
- Protective equipment should not be required unless hazards or risks are indicated.***
- Investigation similar to a telephonic bomb threat.
 - Suspicious findings during investigation should initiate a public safety response including:
 - Fire/EMS/HazMat.
 - EOD team.
 - Notifications per local plan which should include local and state health departments
 - Notifications per FBI plan.

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This information is provided by the National Domestic Preparedness Office (NDPO), in coordination with the Weapons of Mass Destruction Operations Unit of the FBI, the Hazardous Materials Response Unit of the FBI, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID). The NDPO was established to coordinate the Federal Government's efforts to prepare the nation's response community for threats involving Weapons of Mass Destruction. Contact your local FBI office if confronted by a WMD threat.

2. Potential WMD device located

- Follow local protocols for risk assessment and evaluation of potential explosive devices. Included in the response should be:
 - Law enforcement including local authorities and FBI agent.
 - Fire/EMS/HazMat.
 - EOD team.
 - Local and state health departments
- If explosive device is not ruled out, coordinate efforts with local/regional EOD authority and notify FBI Bomb Data Center (BDC).
- If explosive device is ruled out:
 - Evaluate for potential chemical, biological or radioactive filler.
 - If radioactive filler appears to be present, follow FBI plans for requesting additional assistance.
 - If no hazardous materials appear to be present, response continues as a law enforcement investigation.
- Device with potential chemical or biological filler or supplement.
 - Follow FBI ERT protocols for documentation of the crime scene.
 - Contain the package following recommendations from a hazardous materials authority. Assure notification of FBI/HMRU, through local FBI.
 - Options include double bagging, steel cans, poly containment vessels, or utilization of a hazardous materials over-pack.
 - Control the material as evidence and follow FBI plan for laboratory analysis.
- Potential release of WMD material from a device.
 - Control the ventilation system.
 - Follow protocols for a hazardous materials incident.
 - Evaluate the extent of contamination.
 - Evacuation of affected areas and decontamination procedures should be selected on the basis of an incident and risk assessment
 - Provide medical attention following the recommendations from the local/regional public health medical authority
 - Control and or isolate the hazard.
 - Treat as a FBI hazardous materials crime scene.
 - Request assistance from FBI/HMRU through local FBI .

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3. Specific situations - envelope with potential threat of anthrax, letter opened and material present.

- Public safety response including local authorities and FBI agent
- Contain the package following recommendations from a hazardous materials authority.
 - Options include double bagging, steel cans, poly containment vessels, or utilization of a hazardous materials over-pack.
 - Control the material as evidence and follow FBI plan for laboratory analysis.
- Provide medical attention/decontamination following the recommendations from the local/regional public health medical authority
 - Evaluate the extent of contamination.
 - Evacuation of the affected area and decontamination procedures should be selected on the basis of an incident hazard and risk assessment.
 - **Generally, medical prophylaxis and decontamination have not been indicated except for washing hands with soap and warm water.**

4. Specific situations B envelope with potential threat of anthrax, letter opened and no material present.

- Law enforcement response including local authorities and FBI agent
 - Fire department/EMS/HazMat response not recommended unless suspicious material is found or individuals are presenting symptoms.
- Handle the package following FBI ERT protocols
 - Double bag the material and place in a suitable container such as an evidence paint can
 - Control the material as evidence and follow FBI plan for laboratory analysis.
- **No medical attention/decontamination is necessary unless symptoms are present, although local public health authorities should be notified.**
- Handle as a law enforcement investigation.

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5. Specific situations B envelope with potential threat of anthrax, letter not opened.

- Law enforcement response including local authorities and FBI agent
 - Fire department/HazMat response not recommended unless suspicious material is found.
- Handle the package following FBI ERT protocols.
 - Double bag the material and place in a suitable container such as evidence paint can.
 - Control the material as evidence and follow FBI plan for laboratory analysis.
- **No medical attention/decontamination is necessary.**
- Handle as a law enforcement investigation.

Please Note: According to the CDC, hand washing is sufficient for those who have touched the envelope and letter. Decontamination or prophylaxis is not warranted.

These guidelines are reissued from the NDPO "WMD Threats: Sample Guidelines," which was issued with the Special Bulletin (SB) #4.

For additional information, please refer to the following NDPO Special Bulletins:

SB-1 "Anthrax Advisory"

SB-2 "Anthrax Threats"

SB-3 "Anthrax Threat Guidance for Law Enforcement"

SB-4 "Anthrax Facts"

Questions or comments can be sent to the NDPO at ndpo@leo.gov.

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